

Psalm 119: For The Love Of Scripture!

Psalm 119:121-128

Psalm 119:121

(KJV) AIN. I have done judgment and justice: leave me not to mine oppressors.

(NIV) I have done what is righteous and just; do not leave me to my oppressors.

The sixteenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet, *ain* or *ayin* means just what it looks like, “eyes” and “sight,” in reference to letting in through the eye gate light or darkness:

Matthew 13:10-17

The disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?" He replied, "Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. This is why I speak to them in parables: "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: "'You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.'" But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

The Bible is replete with word pictures that reference two parallel and related concepts: physical sight and spiritual sight. Jesus teaches that in order to understand His parables, His listeners would need spiritual eyes and ears to perceive, understand, and apply the essential truth contained in His teaching. In this way, only those humble of heart will be able to understand.

Matthew 18:1-6

At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

Consisting of one *vav* (curved vertical line) and one *zayin* (curved vertical line capped with a crown) the two parts are joined together at the stem and represent the human will. Atop of both lines are what looks like eyes, the gate of spiritual perception through which our human will can be carried out for good or for evil:

Matthew 4:8-9

Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

1John 2:15-17

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Satan tempts us to see the world through the lens of worldly lusts. He knows that our flesh is attuned to carnal pleasure and, left unguarded, will give into temptation:

Genesis 3:6

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Romans 13:14

But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

Jesus teaches us to look away from the world and focus instead on loving God our Father and obeying His Word:

John 14:15 *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

John 15:7-8

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

We will see how our psalmist has been granted spiritual insight into God's Word via his right relationship with God. He is seeing with spiritual eyes and obeying with an obedient heart. Today, and every day, this is *our* ultimate goal in our walk with God.

In Psalm 119:121, the psalmist reasons that his obedience to God's Word has earned God's favour and attentive ear, and that God will deal with the accusers and mockers descending upon him. This is not presumption on the part of the psalmist, it is pure confidence in God's promises:

Romans 12:19

Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Psalms 119:122

(KJV) *Be surety for thy servant for good: let not the proud oppress me.*

(NIV) *Ensure your servant's well-being; do not let the arrogant oppress me.*

Beloved, do not despise the seemingly endless repetition throughout Psalm 119. God knows that we need repetition for God's Word to be embedded in our hearts. You will never regret the time you spend memorizing and meditating upon Scripture. It is a spiritual discipline that pays eternal dividends!

Matthew 24:35 *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*

So the psalmist again leans into the care and protection of God, and in these he claims confidence.

Psalm 119:123

(KJV) *Mine eyes fail for thy salvation, and for the word of thy righteousness.*

(NIV) *My eyes fail, looking for your salvation, looking for your righteous promise.*

I hope, through the Holy Spirit, that you hear the heart cry of the psalmist here. *Salvation*, in this instance, is referring not to becoming born-again, but being rescued and being delivered by the hand of God from our oppressors. When we desire His Word and see the promises of God through clear spiritual eyes, and believe them by faith, God honours and enacts His Word on our behalf. It is His good pleasure to do so! Take comfort today dear Christian. He hears your hear cry.

*STUDY POINT: Find six passages from the Psalms where the psalmist cries out to God. Do you see a pattern in these complaints or cries for help?

*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: What can we learn about God and His relationship to us through these Biblical examples of real people in real trouble?

Psalm 119:124

(KJV) *Deal with thy servant according unto thy mercy, and teach me thy statutes.*

(NIV) *Deal with your servant according to your love and teach me your decrees.*

If we really know God, we know that He is merciful to the humble:

Psalm 103:8-14

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

His perfect love casts out our fear of His retribution towards our sin:

1John 4:17-19

Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth

out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us.

The psalmist “reminds” God in Psalm 119:124 to deal with him with the same mercy he has graciously received in the past. And with his relationship right with God, through His abundant mercy, the psalmist also asks God to continue to teach him and grow him. What a great daily prayer for us today!

Colossians 1:9-10

For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

2Peter 3:18

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 119:125

(KJV) I am thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know thy testimonies.

(NIV) I am your servant; give me discernment that I may understand your statutes.

While the Holy Bible can be studied ad infinitum as a towering academic text, and has produced by way of human assiduous study piles upon piles of commentary, God ultimately gave us His Word that we might be saved, and that we might grow to know Him, love Him, and obey Him through the power of the Holy Ghost and the Word of God. In this way, we become more and more like the the Son in Whom He is well-pleased, Jesus Christ.

Psalm 119:126

(KJV) It is time for thee, LORD, to work: for they have made void thy law.

(NIV) It is time for you to act, LORD; your law is being broken.

As I was studying this verse, I found the tone of the psalmist here humorous. He addresses God as if He might be taking a coffee break, or enjoying a little siesta from running the universe! But our God is *always* alert to the cries of His children.

Psalm 121:1-4 A Song of degrees.

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

Trusting in the Lord’s timing to deliver us from peril and storm can only happen as we focus our minds on Him, not the deliverance itself:

Isaiah 26:3

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

Mark 4:35-41

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Matthew 14:28-33

"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Philippians 4:6-9

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

While mockers - who break God's laws - and storms will descend upon us while we're here on earth, God gives us the victory, through Jesus Christ.

Psalms 34:19

Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

John 16:33

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Psalms 119:127

(KJV) Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.

(NIV) Because I love your commands more than gold, more than pure gold,

As I have shared with you before, we invest our time and our resources in those things that we value the most. The psalmist here clearly values God's Word above earthly riches. We don't have to read into this verse any more than that. But this one important truth squares perfectly with the rest of Scripture:

1Timothy 6:6-10

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Matthew 6:19-21

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Let me issue this exhortation and warning, dear believer: Let nothing and no one steal your delight in and love for God's Word. Nothing. No one.

Proverbs 4:23 *Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*

*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: Is there anything or anyone in your life right now that you would perceive as a threat to your love for God's Word, and to your walk with Him? Would you pray and ask God to search your heart today? (Psalm 139:23-24)

Rather, cultivate and fortify your love for Jesus and for His Word - staying connected to Him - thereby producing much spiritual fruit and bringing much glory to God!

2Peter 1:5-11

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

John 15:7-8

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

Psalm 119:128

(KJV) Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.

(NIV) and because I consider all your precepts right, I hate every wrong path.

Loving and delighting in God's Word is the theme of Psalm 119. Being on the same page as God - in His Word - means that our hearts and lives are aligned with His. My prayer for you and I is that we will stay on the path of righteousness, and find inspiration in this Psalm 119 psalmist and his desire to know God more and obey God more through His Word.

Proverbs 4:25-27

Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.

~ Reverend Darren McClelland